

S E C R E T

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16 NOV 1981

SUBJECT: Topic for Discussion at DCI Breakfast Meeting
with Secretary Haig on 17 November 1981

Situation in Eastern Chad

There have been few developments subsequent to the attached memorandum. The Libyan withdrawal from Chad which began on 3 November continues apace and it appears that the Libyans may be able to complete their withdrawal considerably sooner than the 31 December deadline imposed by the GUNT.

There now is confirmed evidence that a large portion of the departing Libyan forces have redeployed to the Aozou strip area of northern Chad. As yet there have been no reported incidents of interfactional fighting in the wake of the Libyan pullout, although such conflict is a distinct possibility at any time.

On 11 November 1981, Hissein Habre agreed to travel to Khartoum for discussions with the Egyptians and Sudanese regarding suspension of all FAN military operations. However, subsequent to his agreement to travel to Khartoum, heavy fighting reportedly broke out in eastern Chad. On 13 and 14 November, Habre sent several messages to the Sudanese Government denying that his forces had initiated the fighting and blaming the Libyan and French news agencies for deliberately distorting the facts to create tension between Habre and the Sudanese. Habre did admit to peacefully occupying the eastern Chadian towns of Iriba and Guereda and stated that his forces were welcomed by the Chadian military garrisons in each of the two towns. Habre informed the Sudanese that he would be forced to remain in Chad because of the complicated situation, but was dispatching FAN Command Council Vice President Idris Miskine to Khartoum. Miskine was due to arrive in Khartoum on 14 November and would represent Habre in the discussions with the Sudanese and Egyptians.

Attachment -
13 Nov 81 Memo

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